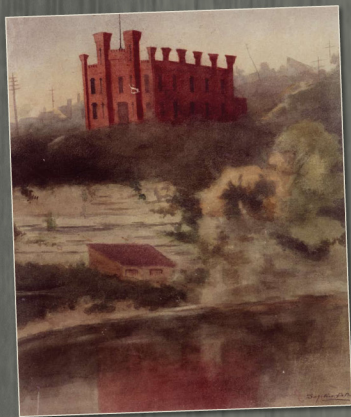


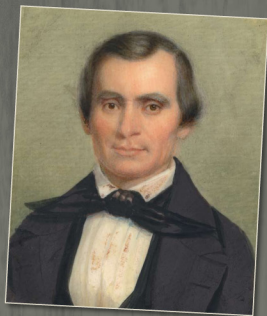


The Kentucky State Arsenal: Building an Arsenal



The imposing character of the State Arsenal has inspired artists for generations. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Arsenal, Sophia Gray, ca. 1910
Kentucky Historical Society Collections



A three-member commission chose Kentucky native Nathaniel Cook to design the arsenal. Cook is believed to have studied with James Dakin, of New Orleans, architect of the First National Bank Building in Louisville.

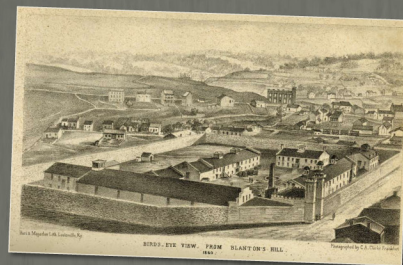
Nathaniel Cook (1813-1868), miniature on ivory, artist unknown
Kentucky Historical Society Collections

The State Arsenal was built in 1850 to store weapons, gun powder, and supplies. It served as headquarters of the state militia, which became the Kentucky National Guard. Strategically located atop Arsenal Hill in Frankfort, Kentucky, the arsenal stood as a symbol of protection for the capital city.

The Gothic Revival style gives the building its fortress-like appearance. Only two stories, its battlemented towers and parapet make it appear taller. Originally painted buff or gray to imitate stone, the building cost eight thousand dollars to construct.

On its high perch, the arsenal stood guard over several other Gothic Revival structures in Frankfort, including the former Kentucky Penitentiary and the Church of the Good Shepherd, a church designed by Nathaniel Cook.

Birds Eye View from Blanton's Hill, lithograph, Hart and Mapother, 1860
Kentucky Historical Society Collections



KentuckyMilitaryHistoryMuseum

AT THE OLD STATE ARSENAL

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